10th August 1929]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (c) of the question, may I know whether the Bill will be introduced before the end of this year ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I cannot say, Sir."

Excise

Alleged false cases conducted under the Abkari Act.

* 235 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received complaints or are aware that a large number of cases under the Abkari Act are concocted against innocent persons in order to cover the large amount of blackmailing and corruption that exists among the subordinate officers of the departments ;

(b) whether in order to reduce such alleged false cases Government have made the experiment of trial of such offences by panchayat courts with jurisdiction over the villages in which the offences were committed ; and

(c) what other steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the alleged false cases under the Abkari Act ?

A.—(a) The Government have not received complaints of the kind referred to and are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. J. A SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why the hon. Minister says in answer to clause (a) that the facts are not as suggested ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because we enquired of the authorities and they said they had not received such complaints."

Steps taken towards prohibition in this Presidency.

* 236 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my question No. 1932 answered on 27th March 1929, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the several steps are which have been taken by Government towards prohibition in this Presidency ; and

(b) what measures have been adopted for closing foreign liquor shops in the several taluks mentioned in the answer during the last six years and are being taken at present ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to clauses (b) and (c) of question No. 1932 on 27th March 1929 and to G.O. No. 1597, P.H., dated 26th June 1929, which has been published.

(b) The foreign liquor shops in the Shiyali, Tirutturaippundi and Tiruvadanai taluks have been closed with effect from 1st April 1929.